

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

California Commission on Aging Opposes use of the Chained CPI

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) in April joined with a broad contingent of advocates and service providers asking Congress and the President to oppose a proposal to use a “chained CPI” to formulate cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security and other programs serving the country’s most vulnerable citizens.

In its letter, the CCoA highlighted the fact that use of the chained CPI will have negative financial consequences for millions of elderly, disabled and poor individuals. The effect of this change would be a significant reduction of income for individuals already living on the edge. “A loss of \$130 per year may seem insignificant for a middle-class working family,” the Commission wrote, “but for an elderly retiree relying primarily on their \$1,000 month check, even a small monthly reduction may mean the difference between food and medicine or paying an electric bill.” The letter noted that nearly two-thirds of all older adults rely on Social Security for half of their income, while for 36%, Social Security is 90% of their income.

State Plan on Aging Hearings Set

The California Department of Aging (CDA), in partnership with the CCoA, will hold three public hearings on the draft *California State Plan on Aging – 2013-2017 (State Plan)*. The federal Administration on Aging mandates the *State Plan* as a condition for the State to receive federal Older Americans Act funding. The Department of Aging and CCoA are seeking input from older adults, persons with disabilities, family caregivers, agencies and advocacy groups serving these individuals, and other interested parties. A copy of the draft *State Plan* is available on the Department’s web site <http://www.aging.ca.gov> under “Draft California State Plan on Aging Information” or can be requested by calling (916) 419-7540.

The three public hearing dates and locations are:

May 20, 2013 10 a.m. – 12 noon Senior Resource Center, 2025 East Dakota Avenue, 2nd Floor – Sierra Conference Room
Fresno, CA 93726

May 21, 2013 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. St. Barnabas Senior Services, 675 South Carondelet Street Los Angeles, CA 90057

May 24, 2013 10 a.m. – 12 noon Sacramento County Senior and Adult Services, 9750 Business Park Drive, Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Sacramento, CA 95827

Anyone requiring disability-related accommodations should contact Carla Cook, at (916) 419-7540 or carla.cook@aging.ca.gov, no later than seven days before the hearing.

AGEWATCH is an occasional publication of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) intended to inform, educate, and advocate. The CCoA is an independent state agency established in 1973 to serve as the principal state advocate on behalf of older Californians. The CCoA office is located at 1300 National Drive, Suite 173, Sacramento, CA 95834.

(916) 419-7591

www.ccoa.ca.gov

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May is Older Americans Month

May marks the nation's 50th celebration of Older Americans Month. The annual recognition represents a proud tradition that shows the aging network's commitment to honoring the value that elders contribute to our communities. This year's Older Americans Month theme—"Unleash the Power of Age!"—highlights the significant contributions made by thousands of older Americans across our nation.

To help communities get ready for this year's celebration, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) has updated its Older Americans Month website for 2013. Older Americans Month is recognized nation-wide with senior informational fairs, senior volunteer recognition events, and other events.

Cal MediConnect Delay Announced

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has announced a delayed start-date of January 2014 for implementation of Cal MediConnect, the shift to managed care Medical coverage for California's dual-eligible population. Part of the Governor's 2012-2013 budget adjustments, DHCS Director Toby Douglas said "Cal MediConnect represents a historic effort to integrate the medical, social, and mental health services provided to some of the most vulnerable members of society."

The coordination of services provided under the new program will require integration of systems on multiple levels, including government, private health plans, and communities. Along with the systems shift, the Department has made a substantial effort to incorporate stakeholder input throughout the process.

For more information on Cal MediConnect, visit www.calduals.org.

Upcoming Events

May 21, Legal Assistance for Seniors 8th Annual Conference on Elder Abuse, UC Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, CA. Registration or information: 510-832-3040, or conference@lashicap.org

May 23-24, Triple-A Council of California, Sacramento. www.4TACC.org

June 11-12, California Commission on Aging Meeting, San Francisco, www.ccoa.ca.gov.

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